

✓ PIONEER ANSWERS CALL 11-9-22 JOSIAH WILSON GROTON'S FIRST CITI- PASSES INTO GREAT BEYOND FRIDAY

son, pioneer, churchman and citizen is dead. The end came evening about nine o'clock after illness covering almost two weeks. The cause of his death was pneumonia, brought about by active participation in laying the underground system of the Groton Telephone company, of which he was manager and treasurer.

One of First Settlers.
Wilson's residence in Groton goes back to the time when the first settlers, seeing the possibilities of this community, braved the hardships of pioneering and settled here. He came to this state from Ontario, and arrived at Watertown in the fall of 1880. Later he came to Groton and proved up on a quarter section of land near Groton. At the time the Milwaukee road had not been built, and Mr. Wilson hauled lumber for his shanty overland from Watertown. The lumber cost in the neighborhood of \$20, and the cost of transportation amounted to \$100. While proving up on the land, Mr. Wilson alternately made trips to Groton and in St. Paul.

Business Activities.
In the upbuilding of Groton, Wilson always took a leading and active part. He was instrumental in convincing settlers to locate here, and then came the means of bringing them. During the early years, with hammer and saw, he helped build many of the first buildings in this city, and later when other companies, and other businesses made their appearance, he identified with them. He was the manager of the St. Croix Telephone company, an institution which grew up under his guidance, but was later absorbed by a rival

Wilson, during his years as a resident of Groton, has seen all of the improvements take their place in the life of the community. When came lumbering ox carts, and teams, were the means of transportation. Being isolated from the world, the news of outside occurrences was brought by the ever-increasing number of pioneer, urged onward by the promise of opportunity. With the increasing population came the railroads and telephones. He was active in the organization of the Groton-Ferncy Telephone company, which in its early years experienced great difficulty in securing a solid financial foundation. It was in its darkest hour, Mr. Wilson was selected to guide its development along the pathway of progress toward a land of prosperity.

A man of vision, Mr. Wilson saw the possibilities of an independent telephone company in this area, and he accordingly planned the organization of the company. In the fifteen years of his management, the company flourished beyond the fondest wishes of the stockholders. It underwent a substantial expansion, and its lines touch practically every part of Brown county. Placing the company on a solid foundation was not without its sacrifices by Mr. Wilson. The chief factor in housing the company, locally, in a modern building, was at its culmination the day of his death. Fate smiled upon him, and allowed this venerable old man to see the result of his planning and effort to this

Active Church Member.
Wilson was a member of the Groton church. Professing this faith in his youth, he steadfastly adhered to its teachings. He has been identified with the local church organization in the early years, and has been one of its most active members. At various times he has held important positions in the body. He has been a member of the board of trustees for many years, and at one time was a leader in the Presbyterian association. At one time he was a trustee of Huron College, which he supported and devoted much energy. He was also secretary of the Groton Union Cemetery association, and held various positions in the different bodies of Groton.

Funeral Monday.